



CITY OF LODI

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

AGENDA TITLE: Award Presentation of Appreciation to the City of Lodi from Hospice of San Joaquin County Honoring our Annual Hospice Tree Lighting Event

MEETING DATE: September 4, 2002

PREPARED BY: Community Promotions Coordinator

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Information only.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Hospice of San Joaquin was incorporated as a non-profit agency in 1980. Hospice care is focused on helping families cope with what people fear most about dying: being in pain being alone, losing control and being a burden to others. Currently, Hospice serves over 850 families county-wide per year.

The growth of Hospice of San Joaquin has always been in response to expressed community need. In 1984, Hospice initiated the Adult and Children's Bereavement Services as well as the School Grief Program. In the last three years, over 650 participants have completed bereavement support groups. There are 14 groups held consecutively. Each group meets one night per week, for six consecutive weeks with the seventh night being a reunion. They are offered to anyone in the community who has lost a loved one and are not exclusive to Hospice families.

In 1990, Hospice of San Joaquin was selected as the 173rd (and first in California), of President Bush's 1000 points of Light to honor the extensive volunteer involvement in Hospice programs.

In 2001, the Hospice Board of Directors unanimously voted to build the first Hospice House in San Joaquin County, which will offer a new dimension of Hospice care.

Last year, Lodi Tree of Lights raised more than \$33,000.00. Special thanks to those who make it possible: Lodi Electric Utility, Pacific Gas and Electric Company volunteer employees and The Bank of Lodi.

FUNDING: Not Applicable

Respectfully,

Cynthia L. Haynes
Community Promotions Coordinator

APPROVED: _____

H. Dixon Flynn -- City Manager